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October 30, 2003

STATEMENT FROM SENATE BUDGET CHAIRMAN NICKLES

RE: Commerce Department's Report on Economy's Third-Quarter Growth Rate

The economy grew at a significant annual rate of 7.2 percent in the July-September quarter—the strongest pace in nearly two decades. It exceeded analysts' forecasts of a 6 percent growth rate for third-quarter GDP, which measures the value of all goods and services produced within the United States.

Senate Budget Chairman Don Nickles said, "It is an encouraging sign that the President's economic plan continues to have a positive impact on the economy. Congress must further these efforts to grow the economy and restrain spending so that projected deficit estimates continue to decrease."